

April 2, 1992

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SENATOR WARNER: Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, whatever you are, Senator Warner. We all talk about this as if this is some phenomenon in 1992, the teenage preg...that there is teenage pregnancy. It isn't anything new. We all know that. I have at home a wonderful old book, it belonged to my aunt, that was a little group called the Social Circle, and they had a little money. How they got it, I guess they had dues, I don't know. Anyway in 1920, '21, '22, along there, in their minutes they recorded faithfully that they had voted to send some money to a French priest in Paris for the unwed mothers of France, all those little babies that were left there by the doughboys after World War I. So, you see, and I am glad that Senator Rasmussen mentioned that some young women, the teenagers think having a baby is the thing to do because that is all they have to do. And it is something that they...I know of women who work with teenagers and who work in the Welcome Baby efforts, and in Voices for Children, and so on, and I am told that it has almost become a status symbol now. So like those young unwed mothers of France, it was a ticket to America they hoped. But my point in bringing that up is that tonight, whatever we decide to do tonight, or in 1992, or 1993, it is an ongoing problem and we need to keep working with it. We aren't going to solve it overnight. A task force, no, it won't solve the complete problem, Senator Nelson, but that isn't any reason that we don't have to try. We have to keep at this and not just ignore the problem. Along with some of the other things that I think should be studied, and maybe we will end up having two separate task forces or some subcommittees or something to study different phases of the problem because there are married women who want abortions for various reasons, economic or otherwise. So I think what we need to look into, along with all of the answers to why people...why women seek abortions, why there are so many teenage pregnancies, we need to look into the methods, and I mean all the methods, and we have talked tonight about it before, of prevention. There are young women, married couples who practice the natural family planning method, and that is a method that was perfected by two Dr. Billings, a man and wife in Australia, and I won't go into any details on it but it is used...women who cannot get pregnant and want to use it because it evaluates the fertile period during the month. Couples have to cooperate with each other on something like that. So I think there is such a wide spectrum of social problems in connection with families and with having families and with children these

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